

REMARKS

Claims 19-26 and 28-35 are pending the application. The Office Action indicates that claim 23 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. The applicant has done this and now presents the re-written claim as new claim 34 and original claim 24 as as new claim 35. Claim 34 patentably defines over the prior art because nothing in the prior art of record or general knowledge discloses or suggests a method of forming a case from a blank including a first panel connected to a second panel, a third panel connected to the second panel such that the third panel can be folded over the second panel to form a protected region, a carriage panel connected to a pocket panel such that the pocket panel can be folded over the carriage panel to form a pocket, and an intermediate panel connected to the carriage panel, the intermediate panel joining the first panel along a boundary that is at right angles to the connection between the first and second panels, the method including folding the intermediate panel such that it overlies the first panel and the carriage panel overlies the second panel, and folding the pocket panel and third panel over such that the carriage panel is within a protected region. Claim 35 patentably defines over the prior art because it depends from an allowable base claim and because it further describes the blank as comprising a further flap connected to the first panel on a side opposite the intermediate panel, wherein, before folding the intermediate flap, the further flap is folded over the first panel and adhesive is positioned on it or a portion of the intermediate panel such that the intermediate panel adheres to the further flap.

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. In response, the applicant has amended the title to clearly indicate the invention.

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the office action indicates that the specification doesn't describe, and the disclosed structure doesn't make apparent

the claim 25 limitations “first second and third elements”, “first and second protective regions”, and “first and second carriage elements”. Similarly, the Office Action rejects claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action indicates that the ostensible incongruity of the language of claim 25 with respect to the disclosed structure as described in the specification renders the claim indefinite. In response, the applicant has amended claim 25 to more clearly describe the inventive carrier, an embodiment of which is clearly disclosed in Figures 6 and 8 and in the portions of the specification describing those figures, i.e., the description for Figure 6, which spans pages 8 and 9, and the description for Figure 8 as found in the first full paragraph on page 9 of the specification. Please note that Figure 6 depicts a front panel 2, a rear panel 4, and an intermediate panel 60. These correspond to the first, third and second elements, respectively, recited in claim 25. The applicant maintains that the written description provides proper support and antecedent basis for amended claim 25.

The Office Action rejects claims 19-25, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The applicant has amended the claims to address the issues identified by the Office Action and maintains that they are now in acceptable form.

Claim 19 recites that “the boundary [between the intermediate panel (26) and the first panel (24)] is at right angles to the connections between the first and second panels”. This provides a blank that considerably simplifies the process of manufacturing a case for an object (and for a carrier for a plurality of objects from a plurality of such blanks) and renders the process suitable for automation. This is because, unlike the Sherman blank, the claimed blank can be folded with all folds being made in the same “sense” in a series of fewer steps of lesser complexity.

The Office Action rejects claims 19, 26-30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sherman (US 6, 505,737). In response, the applicant has amended base claim 19 to further include the limitation that the intermediate panel attaches to the carriage panel along a boundary that is parallel to and axially offset from the connection between the first and second panels. The applicant maintains that Sherman neither discloses nor suggests this feature and does not anticipate the amended claim 19.

The applicant has amended claim 26 to describe the case as further comprising a third portion hingeably attached to the first portion, and a second carriage for holding a further object, the second carriage being movable in response to movement of the second portion with respect to the third portion between a position where the further object is held in a further protected space and another portion where the further object is presented for removal from the case, and the second carriage is hingeably attached to the second portion. Support for this amendment can be found in the embodiment shown in Figures 6 and 8. The applicant maintains that Sherman neither discloses nor suggests these features, and therefore does not anticipate the amended claim 26 or dependent claims 27-30 and 32.

The Office Action rejects claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman in view of Kleinfelder (US 5,647,482). In response, the applicant maintains that the cited combination doesn't reach the invention of claims 20 and 22 because neither of the cited references discloses or suggests a further flap connected to the first panel on a side opposite the intermediate panel as recited in claim 20, or the further flap being used to form a stop tab to inhibit articles from falling out of a pocket formed by the first panel and the intermediate panel as recited in claim 22. Referring to Figure 9, which the applicant has reproduced below and marked to identify each panel, note that the interconnection between the intermediate panel and the carriage panel, which may be by way of a small spine region 22, is offset from the corresponding interconnection between the first and second panels and it is this offset that causes the

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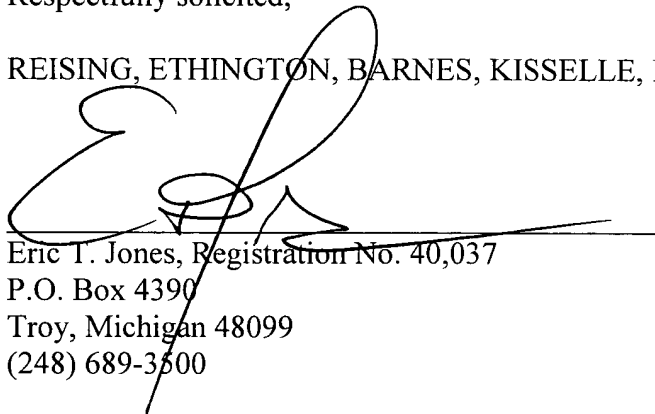
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The Office Action rejects claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman in view of Wharton (US 6,557,700). In response, the applicant maintains that claim 31 is allowable because it depends from an allowable base claim.

The application is in condition for allowance. Please allow the application to issue.

Respectfully solicited,

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